

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-10 USSS-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 IO-13 NIC-01 /143 W

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R 021005Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4523

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 5757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDNR, AF, CH, UR

SUBJ: VIEWS OF PRC AMBASSADOR ON AFGHAN COUP

REF: A) KABUL 5703; B) KABUL 5731

1. IN JULY 30 MEETING YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SOBAJIC (REF B) ALSO RELATED TO ME SUBSTANCE OF HIS JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH PRC AMBASSADOR KAN YEH-TAO CONCERNING THE AFGHAN COUP.

2. KAN YEH-TAO PURPORTED TO BE WORRIED OVER EFFECT OF COUP ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS. CHINESE ARE CONCERNED NOT SO MUCH WITH ANY POSSIBLE INTERNAL RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COUP ITSELF, BUT WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT AFGHANISTAN WILL NOW INCLINE MORE TOWARDS RUSSIAN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE AREA. IN CHINESE VIEW ZAHIR MONARCHY WAS BAD BUT AT LEAST IT MAINTAINED THE BALANCE, BUT NOW AFGHANISTAN MAY "TILT" MORE HEAVILY AGAINST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAKISTAN. KAN YEH-TAO SAID CHINA WOULD WATCH THE SITUATION

CLOSELY AS TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD BE AMONG THE LAST TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME. (NOTE: PRC RECOGNIZED REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT ON JULY 28, LAST MAJOR POWER TO DO SO.)

3. AS AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, AMBASSADOR SOBAJIC TOLD ME THAT FOR THE FIRST THREE DAYS AFTER THE COUP (JULY 17-20) HIS RUSSIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN CONTACTS APPEARED VERY CONFIDENT AND SELF-SATISFIED. THEY HAD EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT DAUD WAS JUST A FIGUREHEAD AND IT WAS THE YOUNGER OFFICERS WHO HAD SPARKED THE COUP AND WERE THE KEY ELEMENTS IN RUNNING THE COUNTRY. AFTER THREE DAYS, HOWEVER, THIS ATTITUDE ABRUPTLY CHANGED AND THE RUSSIANS APPEARED TO BE BEWILDERED AS IF EVENTS HAD TAKEN A SUDDEN TURN THAT THEY HADN'T EXPECTED. SOON AFTERWARDS (JULY 28) RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR PUZANOV DEPARTED ON A SUDDEN JOURNEY TO MOSCOW WHICH, THE AMBASSADOR THEORIZED, MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CHANGE IN RUSSIAN ATTITUDE.

4. AS A FINAL NOTE, SOBAJIC SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THE LIBYAN DELEGATION WHICH VISITED KABUL JULY 28-29 HAD WANTED TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUT WERE TOLD THEY COULD TALK TO DAUD AND DAUD ONLY. HE DID NOT SPECULATE AS TO HOW THIS DECISION WAS MADE BUT IF TRUE IT COULD BE INDICATIVE THAT DAUD IS GAINING THE UPPER HAHD IN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND MAY BE AN INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, RECOGNITION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL05757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS NEUMANN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730759/aaaabqzz.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A) KABUL 5703; B) KABUL 5731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF PRC AMBASSADOR ON AFGHAN COUP
TAGS: PFOR, AF, CH, UR, (KAN YEH-TAO), (DAUD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005